

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 10-95)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

2005

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

10/070709INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/EP 00/07842INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
AUGUST 11, 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
SEPTEMBER 17, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR COMPENSATING NON-UNIFORMITIES IN IMAGING SYSTEMS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Stefan EGGER, Claas ANDREAE

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. have not been made and will not be made.
9. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
16. A substitute specification.
17. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
18. Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
19. Other items or information:

U.S. APPLICATION NO. IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

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2005

20. The follo

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO | \$930.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) | \$720.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) | \$790.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO | \$1,070.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) | \$98.00 |

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**\$890.00**Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).**\$0.00**

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	8 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$0.00

Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).

\$0.00**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =****\$890.00**

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).

\$0.00**SUBTOTAL =****\$890.00**Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).**\$0.00****TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =****\$890.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).

\$40.00**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =****\$930.00**

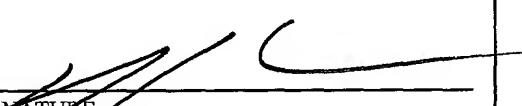
Amount to be: refunded	\$
charged	\$

- A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- Please charge my Deposit Account No. **19-4675** in the amount of **\$930.00** to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **19-4675** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY
103 EAST NECK ROAD
HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743


SIGNATURE

MICHAEL J. STRIKER

NAME

27233

REGISTRATION NUMBER

MARCH 12, 2002

DATE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Applicant: EGGERS

Serial No.:

Filed:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

March 12, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above identified application, please amend the same as follows:

In the specification:

Please amend the specification as attached.

In the claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Add the following claims as attached.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicants have amended the specification to provide headings, in order to bring it in compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Patent Practice.

The original claims have been canceled and replaced with a new set of claims including claim 9 and 15, the broadest method claims, together with claims 10-14 which depend on claim 9, and claim 16 which depends on claim 15.

The claims have been drafted in accordance with the U.S. Patent Practice to more clearly define the present invention to distinguish it from the prior art.

Consideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233

In the specification:

On page 1, delete the heading "Description" and substitute therefore -- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 3, in line 5, between lines 4 and 6, insert the following heading -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 5, in line 1, before line 2, please insert the following heading -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --.

On page 5, in line 10, between lines 9 and 11, insert the following heading -- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --.

C L A I M S

9. An exposure and modulation device for modulating an exposure intensity in an integrated digital screen-imaging system, comprising a light source; a light modulator that includes a plurality of rows of light-modulating cells; a device for imaging on said light modulator; a device for imaging said light modulator on a photo sensitive material; a device for producing a relative motion between said light modulator and said photo sensitive material, so that a direction of motion is substantially perpendicular to a direction of said rows of said light-modulating cells; a device for scrolling a data pattern through various columns of said light modulator at a speed so that the imaging of any data pattern is kept substantially stationary relative to said photosensitive material during said motion; and at least one device for stopping the scrolling procedure after a certain adjustable number of cells of said light modulator used for exposure of said photosensitive material.

10. An exposure and modulation device as defined in claim 9, wherein said light modulator includes a digital mirror device.

11. An exposure and modulation device as defined in claim 9, wherein said light modulator has 1024*758 cells.

12. An exposure and modulation device as defined in claim 9,
wherein said light modulator includes a liquid-crystal array.

13. An exposure and modulation device as defined in claim 9,
wherein said light modulator includes magneto-optical cells.

14. An exposure and modulation device as defined in claim 9,
wherein said light modulator includes ferroelectric cells.

15. A method for exposure and modulation of exposure intensity in an integrated digital screen imaging system in which light from a light source is imaged on a light modulator that includes a plurality of rows of light-modulating cells, the method comprising the steps of modulating the light from the light source by the light modulator; thereafter imaging the light modulator on a photosensitive material moving in a motion relative to the light modulator; selecting a direction of motion substantially perpendicular to a direction of the rows of the light-modulating cells; scrolling data to be imaged on the photosensitive material through columns of the light modulator at a speed so that the imaging of any data pattern is kept substantially stationary relative to the photosensitive material during the motion; and stopping the scrolling after a certain adjustable number of cells of the light

modulator used to expose the photosensitive material, depending on the exposure time specified for a respective pixel on the material to be exposed.

16. A method as defined in claim 15; and further comprising moving the data to be imaged to any column so that they can be transferred from there to subsequent columns.

3/P&V

1 DEVICE AND METHOD FOR COMPENSATING NON-UNIFORMITIES IN
2 IMAGING SYSTEMS

3
4 Description

5
6 The invention concerns an exposure and modulation device for modulating the
7 exposure intensity in the integrating digital screen imaging system (IDSI)
8 comprising a light source and a light modulator that has a plurality of rows of
9 light-modulating cells, and comprising a device for imaging on the light
10 modulator, a device for imaging the light modulator onto photosensitive material,
11 and a device for producing a relative motion between the light modulator and the
12 photosensitive material, whereby the direction of motion is basically
13 perpendicular to the direction of the rows of light-modulating cells, and
14 comprising a device for scrolling a data pattern through the various columns of
15 the light modulator at a speed by means of which the imaging of any data pattern
16 is kept basically stationary relative to the photosensitive material during the
17 motion.

18
19 The invention further concerns a method for exposing and modulating the
20 exposure intensity in the integrating digital screen imaging system (IDSI), in
21 which light from a light source is imaged on a light modulator that comprises a
22 plurality of rows of light-modulating cells, and is modulated by this, after which
23 the light modulator is imaged onto photosensitive material moving in a motion
24 relative to the light modulator, whereby the direction of motion is basically
25 perpendicular to the direction of the rows of light-modulating cells, and that the
26 data to be imaged on the photosensitive material are scrolled through the
27 columns of the light modulator at a speed by means of which the imaging of any
28 data pattern is kept basically stationary relative to the photosensitive material
29 during the motion.

1 The device described hereinabove was made known in DE 41 21 509 A1. The
2 invention described in this document is particularly significant for processes in
3 which large quantities of modulated light are required in the blue and ultraviolet
4 range, such as in the exposure of printing plates, the exposure of printed circuits,
5 and in stereolithography. According to the principle of the invention, the
6 photosensitive material is moved continuously while the image contents are
7 scrolled in the opposite direction at the same speed by the light modulator. The
8 image contents therefore remain in one location on the material to be exposed.
9 The exposure takes place by integrating all short, individual exposures of the
10 cells in a row. Strips having a width corresponding to the number of rows of the
11 light modulator are therefore exposed. A larger area is exposed by placing a
12 plurality of strips next to each other.

13

14 The problem with the device described is that non-uniformities in the light
15 modulator, e.g., caused by differences in illumination or imaging power differing
16 at the local level when cells are controlled in uniform fashion, produce different
17 exposure results within a partial image on the material to be exposed. As a rule,
18 the differences between adjacent pixels on the photosensitive material cannot be
19 detected by the human eye, because humans primarily see differences.
20 Compensation is very problematic in areas, in particular, where non-adjacent
21 pixels are projected next to each other on the photosensitive material. In the IDSI
22 system, this affects the outer rows, because the exposed strips meet overlap
23 there.

24

25 In contrast to the IDSI system, individual image sections are exposed using the
26 digital screen imaging (DSI) system. The entire image is then composed of a
27 plurality of individual images. Attempts to transfer the system for compensating
28 non-uniformities used in the DSI system to adjust the energy in each cell
29 separately were not successful. On the one hand, the necessary transmission
30 rates at a maximum scrolling frequency of approximately 50 kHz and a
31 necessary gradation depth of a minimum of 6 bits—with 8 bits even better—and

1 a light modulator width of 1024 cells far exceed the capabilities of control
2 electronics. On the other hand, a light modulator does not exist that would
3 operate quickly enough to guarantee a gradation of 6 to 8 bits at a cadence of 50
4 kHz.

5

6 The object of the invention, therefore, is to present a device and a method with
7 which the exposure quality can be optimized using simple means.

8

9 The object on which the invention is based is attained by the fact that the device
10 comprises at least one device for varying the number of cells of the light
11 modulator used to expose the photosensitive material, or that, with the method
12 according to the invention, the number of cells of the light modulator used to
13 expose the photosensitive material can be varied.

14

15 The entire length of the image information is not scrolled through the light
16 modulator. Instead, the scrolling process is stopped after a certain, adjustable
17 number of cells. The exposure time can therefore be varied for every pixel in the
18 row on the photosensitive material to be exposed. The integrated energy of a row
19 can be defined exactly. The non-uniformities can thereby be compensated using
20 a simple means of control.

21

22 The great advantage of the device according to the invention over DSI devices is
23 that the number of cells to be calibrated can be reduced from many hundreds of
24 thousands of cells to approximately one thousand rows.

25

26 According to a further advantageous exemplary embodiment of the invention, the
27 light modulator comprises a digital mirror device (DMD). The individual mirrors of
28 the digital mirror device can be controlled well without serious problems. The
29 mirrors that are not used by the device according to the invention to expose the
30 photosensitive material direct the light beam imaged on it away from the
31 photosensitive material.

1 According to an advantageous exemplary embodiment of the invention, the light
2 modulator comprises 1024 * 758 cells. This allows the gradation of the exposure
3 energy to take place with a great level of detail. The adjustment can take place in
4 758 units or 1024 units, depending on the scrolling direction of the data pattern
5 by the light modulator.

6

7 According to another very advantageous exemplary embodiment of the invention,
8 it is provided that the light modulator comprises a liquid-crystal array, magneto-
9 optical cells, or ferroelectric cells. In principle, any other variation of light
10 modulators may be used as well. This results in the considerable advantage that
11 every existing IDSI device can be modified with a device for varying the number
12 of cells of the light modulator used to expose the photosensitive material.

13

14 As mentioned hereinabove, the object of the method is attained very
15 advantageously by the fact that the number of cells of the light modulator used to
16 expose the photosensitive material is varied.

17

18 The exposure time can be varied for every pixel on the photosensitive material to
19 be exposed, because the image information is no longer scrolled across the
20 entire length of the light modulator. The integrated energy of a row can be
21 defined very exactly. The non-uniformities can therefore be compensated using a
22 simple means of control.

23

24 According to a particularly advantageous exemplary embodiment of the method
25 according to the invention, it is not necessary to first transfer the image data to
26 the first column of the light modulator. The data can be transferred first to a
27 column lying further back, for example. The columns located before them are not
28 used for exposure. The exposure energy applied therefore decreases.

29

30 This is described in greater detail using the drawings, which represent an
31 exemplary embodiment of the invention.

1 a schematic drawing of the entire exposure and modulation
2 Figure 1 shows device,
3
4
5 Figures 2-5 show a schematic drawing of the principle of data pattern
6 transmission, and
7
8 Figure 6 shows a schematic drawing of the light modulator with cells that are
9 used and not used for the imaging.
10
11 Figure 1 is a schematic drawing of the exposure and modulation device 1: a light
12 source 2 is imaged on a light modulator 4 using a first lens 3. The position of the
13 photosensitive material 5 relative to the light modulator 4 is changed by a locator
14 6. The relative motion takes place in the direction of the cells of a row of the light
15 modulator. Data patterns are transferred to the first column with cells 8 of the
16 light modulator using a driver circuit 7. It is important that the transmission of the
17 data pattern be synchronized with the motion of the photosensitive material 5.
18 The data pattern transferred to the first column is moved to the next column in
19 synchronization with the relative motion, so that the data pattern transferred to
20 the photosensitive material 5 remains stationary on it. The light modulator 4
21 comprises a plurality of columns of cells 8. The data pattern transferred to the
22 light modulator 4 comprises combinations of activated and non-activated cells 8.
23 If the cells 8 are activated, the light falling on them is transferred to the
24 photosensitive material 5 via a second lens 9. The light that hits inactive cells is
25 directed away by the photosensitive material 5. A particularly positive aspect of
26 the exemplary embodiment shown is the fact that a device 10 is provided that
27 varies the number of cells available for exposure. This means that not all the
28 cells 8 in a row are available for transmission of the data pattern. Since the
29 intensity of exposure of the material to be exposed depends on the exposure
30 time, i.e., on the available cells 8, this device 10 makes it possible to compensate
31 non-uniformities in the image.

1 Figures 2 through 5 illustrate how a data pattern is moved from cell to cell in a
2 row while remaining stationary on the photosensitive material 5. In Figure 2, a
3 signal reaches the first cell Z1. In Figure 3, the same data pattern is transferred
4 to the next column—cell Z2 in this case—while a new pattern is transferred to the
5 first column—cell Z1 in this case. In Figure 5, the data pattern input first has
6 reached cell 4 (Z4). Cells Z5 through Z6 cannot be controlled by the device 10 for
7 transmission of the data pattern. They are not available for exposing the
8 photosensitive material. If a higher exposure intensity is required, they are
9 activated and the data pattern is transferred further.

10

11 Figure 6 shows a light modulator 4 that is subdivided into rows R1 through R9
12 and columns S1 through S8. The cells 11 indicated by diagonal lines are
13 available for exposure. Data patterns are input in column 8 and transferred to
14 column S7. A different number of cells 11 can be controlled in the various rows
15 R1 through R8. Since the intensity of exposure is integrated via the cells in a row,
16 this results in different intensities of exposure for individual pixels on the
17 photosensitive medium 5.

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What is claimed is:

3 1. The invention concerns an exposure and modulation device (1) for
4 modulating the exposure intensity in the integrating digital screen-imaging
5 system (IDS) comprising a light source (2), a light modulator (4) that comprises a
6 plurality of rows of light-modulating cells (8), a device (3) for imaging on the light
7 modulator (4), a device (9) for imaging the light modulator (4) on photosensitive
8 material (5), and a device for producing a relative motion between the light
9 modulator (4) and the photosensitive material (5), whereby the direction of
10 motion is basically perpendicular to the direction of the rows of light-modulating
11 cells, and comprising a device for scrolling a data pattern through the various
12 columns of the light modulator (4) at a speed by means of which the imaging of
13 any data pattern is kept basically stationary relative to the photosensitive material
14 (5) during the motion,
15 wherein the device comprises at least one device (10) for varying the number of
16 cells (11) of the light modulator (4) used for the exposure of the photosensitive
17 material (5).

19 2. The device according to Claim 1,
20 wherein the light modulator (4) comprises a digital mirror device (DMD).

22 3. The device according to Claim 3,
23 wherein the light modulator (4) comprises 1024 * 758 cells (8)

24
25 4. The device according to one of the Claims 1 through 3,
26 wherein the light modulator (4) comprises a liquid-crystal array.

28 5. The device according to one of the Claims 1 through 4,
29 wherein the light modulator (4) comprises magneto-optical cells.

31 6 The device according to one of the Claims 1 through 5,

1 wherein the light modulator (4) comprises ferroelectric cells.

2

3 7. A method for the exposure and modulation of exposure intensity in the
4 integrating digital screen imaging system (IDSI), in which light from a light source
5 (2) is imaged on a light modulator (4) that comprises a plurality of rows of light-
6 modulating cells (8), and is modulated by this, after which the light modulator (4)
7 is imaged on photosensitive material (5) moving in a motion relative to the light
8 modulator (4), wherein the direction of motion is basically perpendicular to the
9 direction of the rows of light-modulating cells (8), and that the data to be imaged
10 on the photosensitive material (5) are scrolled through the columns of the light
11 modulator (4) at a speed by way of which the imaging of any data pattern is kept
12 basically stationary relative to the photosensitive material (5) during the motion,
13 wherein the plurality of cells (11) of the light modulator (4) used to expose the
14 photosensitive material (5) can be varied.

15

16 8. The method according to Claim 7,
17 wherein the data to be reproduced can be moved to any column so they can be
18 transferred from there to the subsequent columns.

2023 CONFIDENTIAL

1

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Abstract of the Disclosure

3

4 An illumination and modulation device is described, as well as a method for
5 modulating the exposure intensity in the integrating digital screen imaging system
6 (IDSI), comprising a light source, a light modulator, and various devices. The
7 object of the invention is to present a device and a method with which the
8 exposure quality can be optimized using simple means. The object on which the
9 invention is based is attained by the fact that the device comprises at least one
10 device for varying the number of cells of the light modulator used to expose the
11 photosensitive material or by the fact that, in the method according to the
12 invention, the number of cells of the light modulator used to expose the
13 photosensitive material can be varied.

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16

February 20, 2002

DECLARATION

The undersigned, Dana Scruggs, having an office at 7970 Sunset Cove Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46236, hereby states that she is well acquainted with both the English and German languages and that the attached is a true translation to the best of her knowledge and ability of EGGLERS, S. ET AL, entitled "Device and Method for Compensating Non-Uniformities in Imaging Systems", including the amended pages.

The undersigned further declares that the above statement is true; and further, that this statement was made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent resulting therefrom.



Dana Scruggs

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Stefan EGGERS
Claas ANDREAE

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR COMPENSATING NON-UNIFORMITIES IN IMAGING SYSTEMS** the specification of which was filed as PCT International Application number PCT/EP 00/07842 on August 11, 2000.

I hereby state that I believe the named inventor or inventors in this Declaration to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior foreign application(s): Priority claimed:

<u>199 44 760.8</u> (Number)	<u>GERMANY</u> (Country)	<u>SEPTEMBER 17, 1999</u> (Date filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u> </u> (Number)	<u> </u> (Country)	<u> </u> (Date filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Michael J. Striker, Reg. No. 27233

Direct all telephone calls to Striker, Striker & Stenby at telephone no.: (631) 549 4700 and address and all correspondence to:

STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
U.S.A.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statement

may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature: <i>Stefan Eggers</i>	Date: 02/13/02	Residence and Full Postal Address: Hoeppnerallee 46 21465 Wentorf Germany <i>DE</i>
Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: Stefan EGGERST <i>W</i>	Citizenship: GERMAN	
Signature: <i>Max Hen</i>	Date: 02/14/02	Residence and Full Postal Address: Landsberger Strasse 2a 21382 Brielingen Germany <i>DE</i>
Full Name of Second Inventor: Claas ANDREAE <i>20</i>	Citizenship: GERMAN	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Third Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Fourth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Fifth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Sixth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Seventh Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Eighth Inventor:	Citizenship:	
Signature:	Date:	Residence and Full Postal Address:
Full Name of Ninth Inventor:	Citizenship:	